



**For immediate release
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DCR TO START DAYTIME REPAIRS IN THE STORROW DRIVE TUNNEL

Barriers will be installed to help reduce noise

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) crews will start working inside the Storrow Drive Tunnel next week, repairing blocked and damaged drainage lines to prevent future flooding and icing problems. During the work, which will start Dec. 26 and last several weeks, one lane of inbound (eastbound) traffic will be restricted.

From Dec. 26 through Dec. 30, the work will be done during the day, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. During those first few days, work will be at the entrance to the tunnel, and the noise level will be high as jackhammers will be used. DCR's contractor will install temporary noise barriers, but the work is scheduled during the day to have the least impact on nearby residents' sleeping hours.

No work will be done on Dec. 31 or Jan. 1. Beginning Jan. 2, and continuing Sunday through Thursday for several weeks, the schedule will be altered and work will be conducted at night, 9 p.m.-5 a.m. By that time, the crews will have moved from the tunnel entrance further inside the tunnel, and the noise outside will be considerably less. The scheduling change will be made largely to minimize the impact of the construction on daily traffic flow.

"We are trying very hard to be mindful of the neighbor's interests, especially their need for sleep," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "When the noise is loudest, we will work during the day. To minimize traffic disruptions, however, we'll move the work to nighttime hours when the crews will be further inside the tunnel and the noise outside will be greatly reduced."

The work is part of approximately \$400,000 in immediate repairs being made to the tunnel over the next several weeks.

Last month, Commissioner Sullivan announced the agency had hired a nationally recognized consulting firm to head up a review and evaluation of the Storrow Drive tunnel project.

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Several options for repairing or replacing the aging tunnel, and for handling traffic during construction, have been proposed by DCR's lead engineers SGH Consulting Inc. and Jacobs Engineering. LMI, a nonprofit strategic consulting firm headquartered near Washington, D.C., will lead the review effort, which started earlier this month and is expected to continue for several more weeks.

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